

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:GECORIDEN:SM

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:GECORIDEN

CU/EE:WPRYCE (SUBSTANCE)

EUR/SOV:FARIGGS (SUBSTANCE)

USIA/IEE:MHOFFMAN (SUBSTANCE)

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P 172203Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: POPOV VISIT

1. SUMMARY

POPOV ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AND HAS BEEN BUSILY ENGAGED WITH THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK. HE HAS DISCUSSED PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS AND THE PROBLEM OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE PERFORMANCES OF THE BOLSHOI BALLET IN NEW YORK WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE SCHEDULE WHICH AT HIS REQUEST CONCENTRATES HEAVILY ON MUSEUM EXCHANGES AND ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. POPOV ARRIVED FROM CANADA ON AIR CANADA 754 AFTER ALL. HE SPENT THE FIRST DAY IN MEETINGS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, A PRESS RECEPTION FOR THE SCYNTHIAN GOLD EXHIBIT AND A VIP DINNER HOSTED BY METROPOLITAN CHAIRMAN DOUGLAS DILLON.

3. EARLY IN HIS FIRST DAY POPOV MET WITH BOLSHOI BALLET
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OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF PRE-PERFORMANCE TIME AVAILABLE AT LINCOLN CENTER. BECAUSE OF A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO PREPARING THE METROPOLITAN OPERA FOR A TOUR, THE HALL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL

SUNDAY, APRIL 20. THE BOLSHOI DIRECTOR HAS BEEN PRESSING STRONGLY FOR ADDITIONAL TIME. DEPT AND OTHERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM TO POPOV'S SATISFACTION.

4. CU/ARTS DIRECTOR DISCUSSED THE US/USSR PERFORMING ARTS SCHEDULE WITH POPOV AND SAKOVICH. POPOV VERBALLY OFFERED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF SOVIET ATTRACTIONS.

1975

A. BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA

B. MOSCOW STATE SYMPHONY CONDUCTED BY SVETLANA - HUOK SPONSORSHIP - OCTOBER-NOVEMBER.

C. MOSCOW CIRCUS - CHALFEN SPONSORSHIP - AUTUMN

D. ARMENIAN ESTRADNY GROUP - DIRECTED BY ORELYAN - MAY.

(NOTE: DEPT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN FIRM ARRANGEMENT FOR THIS GROUP. NO IMPRESARIO ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT).

1976

A. DON COSSACK ENSEMBLE - CAMI - JANUARY-APRIL 1976

B. FESTIVAL CENTERED ON PIATNITSKY - HUOK - JUNE-AUGUST.

C. GEORGIAN SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE - CAMI - FALL

D. MINIAN CHAMBER CHORALE - CAMI - LATE FALL.

E. BALLET STARS - HUOK - JUNE

1977

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A. LENINGRAD SYMPHONY CONDUCTED BY TEMIRKANOV - CAMI

B. MOISEYEV - HUOK

C. BARSHAI OR BERIOSZSKA

D. NEW GEORGIAN ENSEMBLE - 45 PIECES - HUOK

1978

A. VIRSKY GROUP

B. MOSCOW SYMPHONY

DETAILS ARE APPARENTLY NOT FIRM FOR 1976, AND CERTAINLY NOT FOR 1977 AND 1978.

5. ON NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY AND A.C.T., WHEN PRESSED FOR DECISION POPOV SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO DIFFICULTY AND WOULD MAKE DECISIONS ON THESE, TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER HIS RETURN TO MOSCOW. HE DECLINED OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR NYJR REHEARSALS AND SUGGESTED THAT MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE BOLSHOI, MULCHANOV, (PHONETIC) COULD REVIEW PERFORMANCE AT KENNEDY CENTER ON MAY 2. DEPT WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH SAKOVICH TO HAVE REVIEW TAKE PLACE AT THAT TIME.

6. FOR US PERFORMING ARTS FOR 1976 POPOV WAS TOLD THAT MAJOR SYMPHONIES WHO WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO EUROPE WERE ALL COMMITTED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT A SYMPHONY WAS NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN 1976 PROGRAM. DEPT STATED THAT IT HOPED TO HAVE FIRM COMMITMENTS FOR FOUR GROUPS FOR 1976 FOR POPOV TO CONSIDER IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS. THE FOLLOWING FOUR CATEGORIES WERE PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED BY POPOV --

A. AMERICAN MUSICAL

B. ACADEMIC MUSICAL GROUP - POPOV AGREED THAT ACADEMIC GROUPS HAD BEEN A VALUABLE PART OF PAST PROGRAMS AND ONLY HOPED THAT THE ACADEMIC GROUP WOULD NOT BE TOO LARGE.

C. FOLK AND COUNTRY GROUP - POPOV SAID THAT "THE DEPART-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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MENT HAD BEEN VERY RESOURCEFUL IN SENDING THE PREVIOUS FOLK GROUP. THIS REACHED A NEW STRATA OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL. "HE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER ONE.

D. SOFT ROCK GROUP

THE CATEGORIES NOMINATED WERE DRAWN FROM EMB'S SUGGESTIONS IN MOSCOW 3347, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE PROBLEMS FACED IN WASHINGTON.

7. DURING THE COURSE OF A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION POPOV CONFIRMED TO METROPOLITAN MUSEUM STAFF THAT SOVIETS HAD CANCELLED SHOWING OF SCYNTHIAN IN LOS ANGELES. HE STATED THAT SOVIETS HAD DECIDED THAT THE EXHIBIT WAS TOO VALUABLE TO SHIP ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE U.S. AND THAT LOS ANGELES WILL HAVE BOTH HAMMER ART EXHIBITS. (NOTE: SOVIETS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT L.A. HAD INFLUENCED THEM ON THIS DECISION. FYI: LOS

ANGELES OFFICIALS HOPE REVERSE THIS DECISION DURING
POPOV VISIT THERE. END FYI. THE TIME WILL BE ADDED TO
THE SHOWING AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM. THE SHOWING OF THE
METROPOLITAN EXHIBIT IN THE SOVIET UNION WILL ALSO BE EX-
TENDED BY ONE WEEK, BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED WHETHER
THE ADDITIONAL WEEK WILL BE IN MOSCOW OR LENINGRAD.

8. IN SAN FRANCISCO, POPOV IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND A PER-
FORMANCE OF ELMER RICE'S "STREET SCENE". HE HAS SHOWN
LITTLE INTEREST, HOWEVER, IN ANY OTHER PERFORMING ARTS
ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE088490
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CU/ARTS:GECORIDEN:SM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750135-0584
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197504103/baaaahgs.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> sph 971124
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: MOSCOW INFO LENINGRAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006